

C A M P A I G N F O R ACCOUNTABILITY

June 4, 2018

By email: fsd.cru@dss.mo.gov

Attn: Public Records Coordinator
Missouri Department of Social Services
Family Support Division
P.O. Box 2320
Jefferson City, MO, 65102-2320

Re: Missouri Sunshine Request

To Whom It May Concern:

Campaign for Accountability (“CfA”) makes this request for public records pursuant to the Missouri Sunshine Law, Chapter 610, Revised Statutes of Missouri. This request seeks records regardless of format, medium, or physical characteristics, and including electronic records and information, audiotapes, videotapes, and photographs.

Specifically, CfA requests from the Department of Social Services (“DSS”) copies of all communications, meeting notices, meeting agendas, informational materials, talking points, or other materials received by DSS from, sent by DSS to, exchanged between DSS and any vendor or prospective vendor seeking to operate as part of DSS’s Alternatives to Abortion Program (the “Program”), as well as communications between or among members of DSS regarding the Program or the vendors that provide services to Missourians under the Program.

This request is for records from [January 1, 2015] to the present.

By way of background, the Program was initially created through appropriations, but was codified in 2007.¹ The Program is currently administered by DSS. The Program has received over \$35 million since it was created, with annual appropriations increasing significantly to over \$6 million for fiscal year 2018.² The funding is distributed by DSS to individual vendors around the state that then provide the Program’s services.³

If it is your position that any portion of the requested records or of a particular record is confidential and therefore exempt from disclosure, please redact that portion and produce the remainder of the request records. M.R.S. § 610.024. In the event that a portion of a requested record is properly exempt from disclosure, please redact that portion and produce the remainder

¹ Mo. Rev. Stat. § 188.325.

² <https://rewire.news/article/2018/04/05/slashing-public-assistance-missouri-gop-boosts-tax-credits-fake-clinics/>.

³ <https://dss.mo.gov/fsd/a2a/>.

of the requested record. If you deny this request in whole or in part, please specify each exemption on which you are relying to withhold information.

CfA is a non-profit organization and seeks the requested information to inform and educate the public about the state's oversight responsibilities regarding public funding for private organizations. Accordingly, because CfA does not seek the requested information for commercial purposes, CfA therefore requests a waiver of any fees otherwise charged for searching and copying the requested records pursuant to M.R.S. § 610.026.1(1). If a fee waiver is not available, please inform me if the cost will exceed \$200.

Pursuant to M.R.S. § 610.023.3, please provide the requested records within three business days, or furnish a written acknowledgment of receipt of our request and the approximate date when the request will be granted or denied, as well as when we can reasonably expect to receive the responsive documents. If you deny this request in whole or in part, please specify each exemption on which you are relying to withhold information. M.R.S. § 610.023.4. If you are unable to meet this statutorily required time period or foresee any problems in releasing the requested records in whole or in part, please contact me at 202-780-5750.

Finally, I welcome the opportunity to discuss with you whether and to what extent this request can be narrowed or modified to better enable the DSS to process it. If possible, please email the records to me at dstevens@campaignforaccountability.org. If the records are mailed, please send them to: Campaign for Accountability, 611 Pennsylvania Avenue SE, #337, Washington, DC 20003.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dan E. Stevens", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Daniel E. Stevens
Executive Director